

IN THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A method of compressing an image at a server, storing a compressed representation of the image at the server and transmitting at least part of the compressed representation of the image from the server to at least one client, the method comprising:

transforming the image into a frequency domain to form frequency domain coefficients;

after said transforming, subdividing the frequency domain coefficients corresponding to the image into at least one block, each block comprising at least one transformed coefficient;

compressing, via entropy coding, at least a first block and at least a second block into different independently decodable coding units, respectively;

after said compressing, storing at least one of the first and second coding units on the server;

receiving a request at said server; and

responsive to the request, transmitting from the server to at least one client the coding unit(s) corresponding to the request so that upon receiving the request the coding unit(s) corresponding to the request are transmitted to the at least one client without the server having to employ further entropy encoding with respect thereto.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the request describes at least one region of interest of the image, wherein the server identifies which of stored coding units contain information transformed coefficients needed to reconstruct said region of interest, and

the server transmits the identified coding unit(s) needed to reconstruct the region of interest to the at least one client.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the request defines at least one coding unit, and the server transmits the at least one coding unit that is defined in the request to the at least one client.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the request contains information identifying region(s) of less interest of the image that the at least one client does not want to receive.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the region of interest is defined by a mask in the transform domain.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the region(s) of less interest is defined by a mask in the transform domain.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the request comprises information identifying at least one coding unit that the at least one client does not want to receive.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein, in response to the request, the server only transmits coding units that have not already been transmitted to the at least one client

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the request defines at least one coding unit, and the server only transmits in response to the request coding units that have not already been transmitted to the at least one client.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the image is transformed into the frequency domain using at least a wavelet transform.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the blocks are arbitrarily shaped blocks.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the image is quantized.

27. (Previously presented) A server apparatus performing the steps recited in claim 15.

28. (Previously presented) A client apparatus in a client-server system, the client apparatus comprising:

means for identifying a region of interest of an image;

means for identifying a mask in a transform domain corresponding to said region of interest of the image;

means for identifying at least one of a plurality of independently decodable coding units which contains at least one transform coefficient needed to reconstruct the region of interest of the image, the independently decodable coding units being defined as objects compressed by using entropy coding; and

means for transmitting, from the client to at least one server, a request for said at least one identified independently decodable coding unit needed to reconstruct the region of interest of the image.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the request further contains information defining at least one coding unit that the client does not want to receive.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the request contains information concerning a region of less interest of the image that the client does not want to receive.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the region of less interest is defined by a mask in the transform domain.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising means for compressing, via entropy coding, at least a first block and at least a second block into different independently decodable coding units, respectively;

means for, after said compressing, storing at least one of the first and second coding units on the server, and responsive to a request, transmitting from the server to at least one client the

coding unit(s) corresponding to the request so that upon receiving the request the coding unit(s) corresponding to the request are transmitted to the at least one client without the server having to employ further entropy encoding with respect thereto.